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BOOK NOTICES.

A Satchel Guide for the Vacation Tourist in Europe. By W. J. Rolfe. ix and 307 pp., Maps, and Index. Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston and New York, 1907. (Price, \$1.50.)

The service which this accurate little volume renders to tourists is enhanced by the fact that it is revised every year. Many of the details that a tourist needs to know are anything but "constant quantities," and the advantage of frequent correction is obvious. The book also differs from many other guidebooks in describing one continuous route, arranged to take in the maximum of what is best worth seeing with the minimum of travel. The admirable maps by Bartholomew are also annually revised. The book has long been before the public, and its practical value is known to many thousands of tourists.

The Turk in the Balkans. By T. Comyn-Platt. viii and 175 pp., Illustrations, Map and Appendix. Alston Rivers, Ltd., London (1906?)

The author criticises the best maps of Macedonia as not always to be relied upon. A road may be clearly marked as leading to a certain town and yet one may ride all day without finding a trace of it, while, on the other hand, he stumbles across routes which are not found on the maps. He says that the only way to see and to understand something of Macedonia is to strike inland across the mountain, "where alone the village peasant is discovered in his true colours and the story of his life may be inquired into, without fear of interruption." Such travel out of the beaten tracks is not expensive, but it means the sacrifice of every comfort. The book deals almost exclusively with Macedonia, and the author sketches, to some extent, the outlines of Macedonian life and the political and social condition of the country. Many places in the text do not appear on the map.

Cities of Northern Italy. By Grant Allen and George C. Williamson. In two Volumes. Vol. I: Milan. xxix and 229 pp., Illustrations and Index. Vol. II: Verona, Padua, Bologna, and Ravenna. ix and 291 pp., Illustrations and Index. L. C. Page & Company, Boston, 1906. (Price, \$3.)

The late Mr. Grant Allen was a great traveller. In this book are collected the fruits of his wide experience and trained judgment as to what historical and antiquarian information tourists should possess in order to understand and enjoy the architecture, sculpture, painting, and minor arts of the towns visited. For several years he gave much of his time to collecting and arranging material for a book that should carry out this helpful idea without interfering with the province of Baedeker or Murray. Before his book was completed, Mr. Grant Allen's labours were cut short by his death. His friend Mr. George C. Williamson, who was fully acquainted with Grant Allen's ideas concerning the book, completed it on the same lines; and many readers will agree that he has happily followed the spirit and the manner of the lamented author. The facts given in these volumes, in the main, are those which will help the tourist to enjoy and understand Italian art.

The first volume is given to Milan and the second to Verona, Padua, Bologna,

and Ravenna. While the book is written with a view to helping those whose time is limited, the reader is urged to be leisurely if possible and not to rush through the towns as though each resembled the other, for each has its own individuality, is replete with its own interest, and merits careful study:

It is far better to spend a week in each town and only see and thoroughly understand three towns, than to rush through ten and bring away a confused idea of them all without any distinctive knowledge of their distinctive features.

The book will certainly help the tourist to use travel as a means of culture. It leaves to other guide-books all information about material conveniences and practical travel-lore. The work is attractive in binding, typography, and photographs.

La Science Géologique: Ses Méthodes—Ses Résultats—Ses Problèmes—Son Histoire. By L. De Launay. Paris, Armand Colin, 1905.

This ponderous tome of 750 pages, as the sub-title indicate, covers a vast range of geologic topics, leading through the department of organic geology as well as through that of synthesis and chemistry, and is placed by its comprehensiveness almost beyond the possibility of an adequate single-handed review. With a leaning on one side to the text of Lapparent, and on the other to the method of the *Antlitz der Erde* of Suess, it occupies, in a sense, a position intermediate between the works of these masters, while retaining sufficient originality to permit it to be grouped apart in a class of its own. The work is markedly one of theory and discussion—with many of the most abstruse questions settled to the satisfaction of the author—to which Prof. De Launay, with a vast experience on the chemical and petrographic side of geology, contributes a fund of important thought and suggestion. Although, perhaps, not intended to convey this impression, the *Science Géologique* is apt to force upon the mind of the impartial reader the uncomfortable feeling that "things are not as they are," and that much of the groundwork of the science with which it deals has still to be fixed. The physics of the early stages of our planet, and of the interior of the planet as it exists to-day, are debatable ground, as they were upwards of fifty years ago, and, doubtless, will continue to remain such for still a long period in the future, so long as the most eminent investigators can hold to views so diametrically opposed to one another as those that have been so forcibly enunciated in a generation by Lord Kelvin, Sir George Darwin, Chamberlin, Rutherford, and Arrhenius. One can easily believe that the true knowledge of the earth's interior may lie just beyond the possibilities of research and of human understanding.

De Launay's work is supplemented by three maps, illustrating respectively the zones of terrestrial plication in the northern hemisphere, the foldings of the Asiatic continent, and the western section of the European continent in its relation to Hercynian movements. There are practically no illustrations in the text.

A. H.

Cook's Handbook for Egypt and the Sudan. By E. A. Wallis Budge. (Second Edition.) xxi and 911 pp., many Illustrations, and Maps. Thomas Cook & Son, London, 1906. (Price, 10 Sh.)

An introduction of thirty pages, filled with practical information for travelers, leads up to a series of chapters (Part I) outlining the history of Egypt, with brief accounts of the writing, religion, art, architecture, etc., of the ancient Egyptians. Parts II-IV contain descriptions of all the principal places in the Delta,